

Western Kentucky University
TopSCHOLAR®

FA Oral Histories

Folklife Archives

7-15-1986

Gregory, Corinne Taylor, b. 1904 (FA 154)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_oral_hist



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [American Popular Culture Commons](#), [Folklore Commons](#), and the [Women's History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Gregory, Corinne Taylor, b. 1904 (FA 154)" (1986). *FA Oral Histories*. Paper 42.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_fa_oral_hist/42

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in FA Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

TAPE1, SIDE1

CORINNE TAYLOR GREGORY: I'm Corrinne Taylor Gregory. I'm uh, a descendent of the Moses Taylor pioneer family, came from the Carolinas, and the, Richard Taylor family came from, um, Virginia, and the Stevenses that came from Maryland, Hawkins from Pennsylvania Dutch from Pennsylvania. My, people, as you know, came, into this wilderness uh, soon after the, Revolutionary, War, especially after 1792, when Kentucky became a Commonwealth. And uh, I also have a little book about that. The, Taylors came and settled up, and down Green River. Well, first they came to Warren County, and then Butler, and then my ancestor came to Ohio County, and lived on the Green River. That's my first memory, I lived with my mother and father on, one of the home places, seems these pioneers come in, {Clears throat.} maybe, uh, my great-grandfather must have had about thousand acres, and a lot of children, and then give them maybe a hundred acre farm.

CHARLOTTE POSTLEWAITE: A hundred acre farm.

CG: So that's, my first memory there. Uh, I was only child, I, my uh, lost my brother and sister. And uh, we didn't, have a lot of childhood, but, in fact I was born, just down the street here, the shadow of the steeple and the sound of the old bell. My grandparents and spent a lot of time with my grandparents here, and then we came in town, when I was in grade school.

CP: When were you born?

CG: In uh, 1904. And uh, uh, remember about the early, days, of my childhood and my school, well, it's a little one room school, that's another little book. Out here at Coopersville School, nothing there but some trees now, 'course it, uh, had a little privy, when we kept still, we answered when we were talked to, em, we didn't behave like children today at all. Ah, family life, well, I had animals, especially on, my whole family were horse lovers, and my earliest uh, recollections, horseback riding, dogs, 'n cats, 'n things like that. Hunting with my father, learned to cook with my mother. My mother was a teacher. She taught me to read when I was young. I went to high school a little young. I think I skipped two, grades, and sent me to, Owensboro, a Woman's School, back of , that was Woman's College, ?? could ill afford, but I, I guess I got some good training there, and went on to Bowling Green. Well, local events, there was the county fair, horse races.

CP: Tell us about the horse races.

CG: Uh, {Clears throat} Old fellow Prentiss, {Clears throat} he, raise race horses, and try to, go to the county fair, and it's just a time when, everybody went each year, back then when they laid out the barrels, took the lunch, uh, I guess uh, the old race track, they bought the sand,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

from Nealon or some place. It was a very, good race track, race track, and then, judge and call out the races, and so on

CP: Did people place bets?

CG: Not uh, openly. {Both chuckle} I don't know what they did too much.

CP: What were the prizes?

CG: Uh, ?? money, ?? money.

CP: Did people bring their horses from their farms, or were these the race horses?

CG: Uh, these were mostly local, but uh, there were some good ones. And uh, see, you couldn't, couldn't travel then much, of course, you'd have to walk, those horses would have to walk where, you couldn't ride 'em, they didn't 'em. They were very protective of their horses. ?? means of transportation. One of the chief concerns of people who lived then, I say uh, their uh, ?? health care, 'cause we didn't have much. ?? doctors ??, {Clears throat} the only miracle drug was quinine, ??, and castor oil, ??.

CP: What did people do for a fever?

CG: Quinine. I ??, someone, ?? rheumatic fever, 'n, polio, typhoid fever, ?? Hospitals ??, we had one in Owensboro, Louisville, ?? had access to, because we did have good trains.

CP: Did you know of ?? surgery?

CG: Oh yes, we had wonderful doctor, he was, ?? Doc Taylor's, Dr. Joe Taylor, and uh, he had the training, he would have been, ?? a specialist, the power of diagnosis, and knew what ??, he knew everything, and uh, he's actually done surgery on kitchen tables and ?? And uh, his stories ?? He would get so disgusted, though, he'd go down to the river and throw his little black bag in, and swear, he'd never practice again, 'cause he had nothing to work with. He, ?? didn't make much ??, except he was from over in Butler County, practiced in Hartford, ?? Fact, I'm about the last of his, his family, ?? distant cousins. First car, reckon we had was a big ol' uh, ?? touring car, and buttons with little curtains on 'em, and ??, and the roads were built for horses and buggies, and not the car, ?? accident or something ?? My boyfriend taught me to drive a Model T ??, but uh, he loved his cars, and we, we had to give up our horses and buggies, ?? tournaments, ??

CP: Well, did gasoline stations spring up about the time cars ??

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: ??, see they had blacksmith shops, ?? {Clears throat} and they had to shift over to the gas ??.

CP: Did they become the gasoline stations?

CG: I don't think so, and uh, grocery stores. I used to pump out ?? grocery stores.

CP: Who worked on the cars, did people ?? figure out what they had to do or ?? ?

CG: ??

CP: Did that start a new, occupation?

CG: If you could fix a Model T, ?? you know, ??

CP: {Chuckles}

CG: But the mechanics would, spring up around, 'n, I don't know where they learned. Certainly didn't have any schools for it around here. I suppose they, {Clears throat} ?? manufacturers, for some training.

KEVIN EANS: What was the cost of gasoline?

CG: Well, I remember when it went up to thirty-five cents, but people thought that it was just ridiculous, for, I don't know, I have a ?? . I had a little, Chevrolet Coupe, uh, four cylinder, maybe, and I finally, pretty much, ?? back in the early '30's ?? . I left here in '33 or '34, and it was ??

CP: Oh.

CG: ?? two or three ??, and uh, I would still not have put a dollar in, each week, and I drove there and back, ?? We always went to town at night, the drug store 'n, chase around a little bit, so if I spent a dollar a week, I ?? . ?? good little car, {Chuckles} ?? and then, it was cheap. I guess it's twenty cents a gallon. At that time. And I remember, I left it about that time, and uh, I had bought other car, I bought a, ?? Chrysler or a used car, ??, took payments on it, at the counting house at the, ??, ?? it was already six months to the year ??, so I left it, {Clears throat} and my father, and uh, I ?? come back to here, because of the Depression, and 'course he was sick and, lost everything he had, and he couldn't work. And uh, I was invited by an old school friend to visit, ?? , and uh, so I went by train, and got to ??, ?? Director of ?? Girls' Boarding School. ?? and uh, ?? was there during ?? . I stayed eight years, so I could visit ??, so I left the county then.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CP: Now when was that?

CG: That was 19n33, '34.

CP: And the schools closed here because of what?

CG: The lack of funds. Now, this was county schools. See we had the, town school, Hartford ??, Grade School, ??

CP: Why was there a lack of funds?

CG: Depression. Lines were long and ??, people couldn't pay their taxes. No money.

KE: Where did the, county school children go?

CG: Where did they go?

KE: Where did they go to school ?? ?

CG: ??

KE: After the schools closed?

CG: They didn't go. That year. I don't know what happened. I left. I don't know what happened the next year. Uh, the grade school, around here, ?? ran September through, May, I think it was. The county schools, they had seven of us, but they would start early, ??, that's what I was working at that time. But I was fine. ?? that Depression, and uh, my first two years of teaching was a real nice boarding school in Virginia. And uh, ?? , high school part and college ??, and I worked here. I, worked twenty-two months without stopping, during the Depression. Many people didn't have a job at all, but from ?? shifting from one system to another, I ?? awful tired, {Chuckles} burned up , in between I would teach, businesswomen how to drive cars, and uh, businessmen's wives how to drive a car. I'd type for, businessmen who couldn't afford a typewriter or, secretary. We were taught, beginning accounting lessons when we were in school. I was frightened senseless. No jobs and no money. A lot of, good merchandise on the shelves but we couldn't buy it.

CP: What did ??, what did ?? do?

CG: Well, there was no, I think it was a pool ?? some place, that as far as I know, there's no relief, no welfare. It was a frightening time. I recall one Sunday afternoon while I was teaching, ?? I was home grading papers, and uh, I heard a ?? funeral had given, ??, knew I was home, and I heard a, ticking ??, and I looked out the window, and this man ??, snatched up one

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

of ??, and was running toward his ??, {Clears throat} he didn't live very far from us. ?? tears were just streaming down his face. And his mother was very, very ill, ??, and something had happened inside, ??, it's the first time I've told that story. I didn't tell my parents ??, because I knew how my mother VALUED those chickens. 'Course we needed the chickens and the eggs, and uh, I came across ?? soon after that, came across the ??, and looked it up and they, {Clears throat} ??, but it was Proverbs, Thirty, ?? Thirty-nine, said uh, uh, "Don't uh, the, the Lord will grant me, ?? to the poor," and I ?? exactly. Lest I be poor, and deny thee, or be so poor I would steal. Which ??, and, I, went into uh, work ??, but uh, wasn't too long, you know, 'til we, went into the, World War II, and that's what broke the Depression, ?? too, terrible, way to end the Depression. I do remember when uh, the Fuhrer?? was defeated. {Clears throat} FDR came, and he did the ?? to start the ??, and the first school lunch, ?? he was ?? school. Health Department that acted. We didn't have a Health Department here, when I was teaching. It's very few people had jobs and ?? and get a job. Rarely people kept their jobs. Time was kind of, I believe, the haves or have not. Those who had money, loaned it, to the rest of us that had to ???. We ?? who charged ten percent to the poor, people, ???. 'Course the people picked him. And the uh, the people didn't know, ?? control and uh, got so much money out here, in the county. One person, {Clears throat} took in so many bad debts, ?? with hardwood lumber, build a barn. I always wondered how, always meant to go see it, what the barn looked like, with that hardwood lumber. If it's still standing. {Chuckles}

CP: Uh, how did those, I wonder those people kept from losing their money? They must not have had it in banks. ??

CG: Well, this bank didn't fail. It closed three days. We had a few dollars in it, and we couldn't get any money out for a few days. This bank didn't close ??, I don't think the ?? banks closed.

CP: What was the name of this bank?

CG: The Beaver Dam Deposit. It's still in ??, and it's here. And ?? was the President ??

CP: What ?? how did they uh, they uh, ??

CG: Butler County, I think, in Morgantown, ??, it closed. We had friends that lost their money there. ?? But people were ??, they uh, they fought this the whole way. ?? on our homes, and, business, life insurance, they have life insurance, ???. They just got to think soon it's got to be over. And, just kept on ???. After I wrote the little book about Beaver Dam, this woman ?? {Clears throat} ?? and uh, husband had unexpectedly ???. ?? a little house, and a cow, and chickens, and a garden, and uh, ?? die but she looked in this man's pockets, and thirty-five cents,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

all the money, ??, so once she started, to take in washing, from people in town, well, ?? that people had ??. Things were hard. {Clears throat}

CP: Can you ?? now and tell us about ??, and was that a little town in itself?

CG: Well, yes. Uh, ?? we were at the hotel owned by a ?? grew up, and ?? quite a social center. ?? when things are goin' good, why, we were goin' regular.

CP: During what period of time was this?

CG: Uh, well, it goes back to the Taylor ??, and my grandmother's related to ?? Taylor ??. She lived in, Metcalfe County, ??. And she would, get on a horse, and pick up the ?? to carry, ?? pick up ?? eggs, and ?? and go back home. Uh, that would be in the 18-, around, ?? after 18n80. But I have the dates in the book. But uh, the heyday of it, was in the, early '20s, I'd say was the best years. But these people, Speeds and Bernards??, Bernard?? family and the Speed family, the Speed was in Louisville. ?? Uh, I think the Bernards?? are all gone. But they lived here, and the family ??. They finally consolidated. Before it was, Taylor ??, and uh, it finally became the Beaver Dam ??, and that included ?? and ??. This was part of my ??.

CP: Really?

CG: But there's, uh, people came, that came over, because uh, ??, and uh, ?? . And uh, the railroads, see, the railroad came through here, uh, a little while after the Civil War. And the railroad is what made Beaver Dam and this whole section. That's what ?? Hartford ?? today. They've got, they've got the court house. We've got the railroad.

CP: Hm.

CG: And uh, ??. Tell you why the ?? go straight down to the ??. There was timber line just settin' on it. But the ??, let's see, had, had wire, and extension, and ??

CP: And it's near, ?? ?

CG: Should be down in ??. But it's just a ?? right now.

CP: Tell us about the ?? company store in ??

CG: Well, the company store had everything you want to buy, even a little drug store, and a doctor's office, ?? room, merchandise. Large, about three story, ?? and ?? one time it had peppers, ?? that, for miles around and it was just uh, a bookkeeping ??.

CP: And what was ?? ?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: Uh, little uh, pieces of money. ?? collection, ?? collection ??, photographs, and uh, ?? also. ?? lived here in this town. ?? himself some eggs and ??

CP: Well now, I always think of it uh, is it two ?? Henry Ford song

CG: Country store.

CP: Uh huh.

CG: That came from uh, somebody ?? wrote that, but

CP: Was that a true picture

CG: Oh, oh,

CP: Of the ??

CG: Oh, yes, yes. When the children uh, would have to wait uh, ?? would have to wait some ?? time for the uh, mines to close before the time, ?? came in or whatever, you know what, they had eaten that ??, and uh,

CP: ?? pay ??

CG: Uh, sometimes it was fairly good. And sometimes it wasn't. You, you just have to read the book. I, I, I'm ?? somebody come along and say, "I wished she'd known this," "I wish she'd put that in." {Chuckles}

CP: Well, what do you remember about the ?? We, we're confused. We've heard a little over in the Muhlenburg area about the 1924 Strike, which they, thought broke the union, and maybe even started the Depression, so

CG: 1924.

CP: And, and then they talked about the 1930 Strike. ??

CG: '33, I thought, but the, the, we spend ?? one day and walked to the office, it was a glass office.

CP: Were you there for it?

CG: Oh no, I was, no, I left the country, ??, no, I had been teaching ??, schools, Three Rivers School. I, all the people out here in the store, they could see in. Well, they saw this man come in, and they put ??, the manager, and they announced, ??, as of today. And uh, you could see 'em break down and weeping. And then the whole, ?? town was just, everything was gone.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CP: Was that in 1933?

CG: Uh, no, it was a little later than that. ?? . No, I lived here, and, things were still going on, but uh, the story I heard later was that the man who ??, who ?? some place, ??, eventually uh, took over.

CP: Now, were they union men or non-union men?

CG: Non-union, no, maybe the union was broken then. ?? it had ?? so many people won't even talk about it.

CP: Why?

CG: I don't know. I was uh, more or less connected with the, management in a way, we teachers were. And I was, never pretended to be a union person, but I, respected them. ?? uh, there might be a few people here in town who worked ?? Take on uh, ?? , in town, ??, but there's a very sentimental attachment in town. They were like a family. That part of my book, well, I'm not the one that ??, the honest ??, whose, whose son got, took part of his high school, assignment and started a book with. And to be honest with you, my first grade when I was teaching ??, but he liked to talk about it.

CP: Were the people, that worked in mines, just lived right here in

CG: Oh, yes.

CP: Here in ??

CG: Oh, yes.

CP: They built homes down there.

CG: They belonged to the company, the stores, they left their electricity ?? . But uh, my stories ?? , and uh, ?? here to have a name ?? . So-and-so left ?? here. ?? follow my ?? . The uh, ?? cemetery that they do keep up, and the, this is school building, had three rooms, on the first floor, and then the upstairs was, meeting hall, ?? dances up there, and ?? murder in there once.

CP: In the ?? room?

CG: On the stairway or something. ?? book. {Chuckles} I've got a different story on that, 'cause what I grew up with was the story of Diane. ?? the uh, son and who died, ?? Black Death ??

CP: What is the Black Death? ??

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: ?? gas that forms in only in shafts. And that's the story I remember ?? talked of, ?? off on that. ?? an old wood ?? he said, "Well, you know whoever wrote that ?? ? a thing about the ?? except maybe a ??" {Chuckles} ??, but everybody's ??, they loved the Bernards??, and the Bernards loved the people. And uh, ??

CP: ?? around here?

CG: Well, most of 'em have moved, before, just the manager, it's a high paying jobs, Mr. ??, he was the ??, Richard ??, was the, the superintendent ???. There's a big white house, first built there in ??, and after that then it ???. I guess it's all gone. ???. ?? Parker was the store manager. Had about three stores. Old hotel and, rooms for ??, besides this hotel. When I was there, the hotel wasn't in operation. It had been turned into apartments, and miners lived there. Lots of stories about the ??, and ???. And uh, a person couldn't work in the mines 'til he was sixteen or eighteen. He'd have to work, well, just, on certain ??, but the ?? were pretty young. ?? for the time ?? place, that's ?? maybe ?? children would have to walk in here to, high school and, ??

CP: They didn't ride the train?

CG: No. The train was just a ???. No, ??

CP: Uh, do you remember the first time you rode it?

CG: Yes, my father was always very active in politics, and uh, let me see when uh, ?? got to go, but I ?? my birthday's August and we'd go to, ?? because it ???. My grandmother didn't, and my mother didn't go.

CP: Did they uh, I wondered how women, excepted their

CG: Oh, ??

CP: ?? responsibilities?

CG: Oh, they were glad, I'm sure.

CP: How did the men feel?

END TAPE1, SIDE1

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

TAPE1, SIDE2

CG: ??

CP: {Chuckles}

CG: But she uh, my mother, I asked my mother ?? one day, and I guess I was in college, and, she said, “Well, why ask ?? ?” They lived across the street. I said, “Oh, it’d make her cry.” And she said, “No, she likes talking about,” and I wish I had talked to her so much now. But uh, she was so aware of things. But my father died ?? sixty-two. I was ?? the Depression shortened his life. But uh,

CP: What did he do, for a living?

CG: He uh, he uh, had a, hickory saw mill, ??, First World War, he was in the draft, but {Clears throat} he was uh, ?? army trucks, and ?? war.

CP: Out, out of his ?? ?

CG: No, as a ?? place to begin, ?? begin, and uh, the ?? draft the person that could ?? lost his, farm,, and ?? Depression ?? business. When he died, we were ??, you know, we ??

CP: Do you think that’s sort of odd ??

CG: Oh, I know it

CP: ?? ?

CG: I know it, for goodness sakes. ?? health care and a good doctor, but there’s just so much he could do. The two doctors in town, Dr. ??, was my neighbor, and Dr. McKinney??, Dr. McKinney, uh, I think that, well, twelve hundred people lived in ??. {Clears throat} ?? two dollars a month, health care, see, if they did that, that’d take in twenty-four hundred dollars a month, and that was great. And then, delivered babies, or do anything for two dollars a month. And Dr. Willis??, became the uh, ?? and was ??, was a railroad doctor, and he all right with that. But ?? Dr. uh, Willis, ?? up to Louisville, and ?? he was there before he was a railroad doctor. Dr. McKinney?? wanted that, too, so they became ?? {Chuckles} Dr. Willis was the uh, he had good ??

CP: Now was it any one of them you said pitched his bag into the river?

CG: No, that was Dr. ?? of Hartford. ?? told you that yesterday.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CP: ?? of Hartford.

CG: Uh, he uh, ?? Dr. Willis loved horses, and ?? he rode ??. ‘Course these doctors out at the farms ??

CP: I used to ??

CG: Uh huh. Yes if you could get there, ?? road ?? sink to the bottom going to Hartford.

CP: Well, now, did you ever go to Owensboro?

CG: {Chuckles} Yes.

CP: How did you ever get up through ?? ?

CG: {Chuckles} Well, ?? disastrous ?? but uh, I uh, think of youngsters now getting to ?? like they do, but actually ?? did, too, because uh, we’d pile in somebody’s old car, and go to Owensboro. We did uh, some place out of ?? still there. ?? Francis.

CP: Now, what do you remember about the movie ?? ? Were they, uh?

CG: Well, {Clears throat} many of us couldn’t get married, in those days. We either broke up or, couldn’t afford to get married or something, ?? meant to. But uh, there was a young couple that did, marry. They both had jobs, they could do ??. She was related to the ??, and uh, ??, and uh, we were talking about ?? too many ??, and one big sheet of ??, that ?? every morning, that paid their groceries ??, and had two dollars and a half left, and ??, so they bought uh, let’s see, a movie ticket, for both of ‘em.

CP: Really?

CG: ?? best of ?? so happy that they had some place to go every night. And uh, ?? seats ?? restaurant in town every day, and ?? even without the ??, and she said, “Well, I ?? for ten cents.” That must have been ?? , and down here at our restaurant, you could get, a hamburger for five cents. I can’t believe that, and she said, “??.” then said, “We didn’t have anything but we shared, and we had a good time.” Well, I ?? whenever I was teaching. In a drugstore I bought a five cent Coke, and didn’t buy a, ice cream cone. ?? But the movies, oh, we did watch the movies, without sound, of course. I think the first sound, ?? , Kentucky, see, ?? just over the mountain. ?? But uh, we ?? all ?? let us ?? for our school since ??. She said, “All those movies, they’ve done for real. If they did a snow scene, they did it.”

CP: Huh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: ?? that, and then ?? but they felt like the movies would be the universal language of the world, bring peace.

CP: Really, ?? ?

CG: Uh huh, yes, that's just ?? that I uh, when I left Tennessee, {Clears throat} ??, Gatlinburg and uh, I worked, coordinated for the Red Cross when I was a student, and I met my husband ?? He was in ?? Cincinnati ?? Company ?? So I, I married when I was twenty-six years old, and ??

CP: ??

CG: ?? had just started coming into the business, {Clears throat} sold the business to ?? him, {Clears throat} and that was ?? He actually ?? He was also in, drafted in the Second World War, but, he had to, he wrote the tests?? for the army at that time, so he was ?? during the wars, except on the ??, {Clears throat} during World War I, we'd, get the Louisville paper, and yesterday was the last paper, *Courier-Journal* and ?? finally get to print and uh, uh, the stories were edited. ?? through papers in the air, and catch on 'em on ?? told war stories, and ?? be there ??, knew a lot of fellows ?? in the rural community that ?? now, and people that can't ??, wives, and sweethearts, that cried and ?? Some of 'em didn't come back. ?? didn't come back, {Clears throat} ??, and uh, real disappointed that he didn't talk to us, ?? He's so ?? and watching ?? and the trains ?? . Second World War, when I was in Cincinnati, I remember seeing a ?? on campus, ?? across, the ?? night, and ??, always trained at night, ?? Kentucky ?? Looked so young. Mothers and sisters would follow them out on the roads out. I was scared, I was really scared, and uh, we, we didn't have TV, and put the radio on, and uh, rush out to the movie houses at night to see the, news reel.

CP: How often did they ??

CG: Pretty much. Uh, lots of ?? We had a lot of, a lot of news. It was instant, radio. 'Course TV, actually it's even more, instant news. We were ?? 'Course radio ?? but ?? around the town ?? Just couldn't believe it.

CP: How long was that?

CG: ?? that is,

CP: What do you remember, do you remember the slogans?

CG: Uh, no,

CP: ??

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: Big ??, I remember. That's ?? Uh,

CP: Do you remember any of the radio programs?

CG: Oh, my mother, I remember my mother, sittin' ?? the show ?? . Oh, the thing, uh, in Tennessee when I went down there, was Saturday night, ?? .

CP: What kind of shows were they?

CG: ??, but uh, once in a while you'll see something about it. ?? did, didn't you ??

CP: Uh, do you remember, what people around ??, hobos, ??

CG: No, but I remember when all the ??

CP: ??

CG: No, I was in uh, Tennessee, ?? uh, there were two or three fellas, ?? people, that sent for ?? at that time, and uh, I remember uh, that they had a college boy ??, join our, business school. And he came running over, to tell us that he had just gotten, ?? . The uh, ?? plus ?? Steel ?? , {Clears throat} and uh, there's, there's ?? and everybody so thrilled with it. But uh, there was a lot of tourists, but uh, it was noticeable we had a lot of Japanese tourists, and ?? makin' pictures over there. And 'course, as quick as that happened, well, when we started hating the Japanese like we hated the, Kaiser, ??, and uh, in the war time, we had to GUARD the place twenty-fours a day at uh, at the town, we had two townsmen to ??, and had a bridge, and uh, ?? . I don't know ?? or not.

CP: Were there any concentration camps that you ever heard of?

CG: Concentration

CP: Here, uh, ??

KE: Detention

CP: Detention camps, yes.

CG: Now, detention camps, ?? over here uh, when they didn't want to fight. Uh, uh, didn't believe in war, what's the name of that ?? ? My husband and I did a lot of horseback riding in uh, back in the mountains, and uh, that's where I met him, was, as I say, ?? . During the war, we were down there, and uh, stumbled on this camp.

CP: One of ?? resistance?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: Uh huh, and they were so glad to see us, 'cause everybody hated 'em. And they were stuck way down in the Smokies. So they took us in the ??, and we ??. We talked to 'em, and, uh, was nice to 'em. They was nice to us. They wanted us to stay for lunch, and I didn't want to, really, so, {Chuckles} we left.

CP: What, what happened to them after the war?

CG: Oh.

CP: Did they serve time?

CG: They served time, that was it. Uh, conscientious objectors, was that it? ??, but they tried to explain to us, why, ??, but that seemed, ??

CP: How did you all feel about that? I know your husband, of course, could have called the police or ?? without 'em

CG: He was ??

CP: ??

CG: Uh, well, I wasn't too sympathetic and yet uh, people over in, Elizabethtown, ??, uh, train loads or uh, ??, but I don't remember where they were going and why. And then why do ??. We uh, the thing we noticed in Cincinnati, was Japanese born, American-Japanese

CP: Here?

CG: Born people, from California, here, a lot of 'em's in Cincinnati, 'course it's a conservative town, and uh, ?? and everything, but it was sponsored by churches. There's a doctor and his wife that lived in our neighborhood, our church, and they ??. And uh, they would ?? and she dressed him in the Chinese, pigtails so people wouldn't hate him and think he was Chinese. But they were very fine people, and uh, the uh, the lady became Director of one of the veterans?? Hospitals there. They weren't to blame for the war, but, ?? felt terrible about the ??. Now I wonder, here there are coming in and buying all these big, farms, and, and, race horse farms in Kentucky, and ?? fast.

CP: How did people react to ?? of the atomic bomb?

CG: Oh, goodness, see, uh, we knew about uh, Oak Ridge, over right there by it, and uh, we knew it was for our safety. Once my husband and I didn't have enough gas and some reason was riding in a taxi, taken the train in, Knoxville, and were in the taxi, that's ??, and somebody had ?? some secret, material, and didn't want us in there. Well we ?? get out. ?? was just

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

furious, and uh, so it was, highly classified, of course, and then when that happened, I was in Cincinnati. I was married. ??, but we wanted that war over, of course, I don't think we could ?? for now, then, looking back, it still seeing the horror of it, and knowing what might have happen to us, and everybody else, I don't know. We were just glad it was over.

CP: Americans just, had no idea what we were developing at Oak Ridge?

CG: Oh, nobody,

CP: ??

CG: Nobody. The kinds of people, MANY people worked there. We had no idea. Oak Ridge was just down in the valley from ??, from ?. And everybody wanted a job ?. Believe you me, that ?? them out of the Depression, ?? times. ?? was a very ?? thing.

CP: Did you keep teaching during this time?

CG: I was Director ?? Girls Boarding School. ?? continue this practice school and the counties, ?? teaching in, ?? teaching in Cincinnati. But uh, ??, a few years ago.

CP: Uh, did you notice a change in the students and ?? World War II, people talked about ??, liked working in factories, and, working and didn't want to go back to the home. ??

CG: I don't know uh, how ?? works ?. I always wanted a career. I uh, my step-daughter and, that I, raised the little girl, left me, ?? boarding school, and I did, ?. We had children at home, and, wasn't meant to stay in the local ??, but uh, no, I don't think that they've changed any at this point, since I ?? Well, now, the change that came, ?? in the Sixties, were ?? change of people. We used to talk so much, and visit so much. Even during the War, everybody talked to everybody else. Big ?? buses, trains, ?. Now we don't talk to people. ??

CP: {Chuckles}

CG: We lost ?? of television, that's ??, stopped being, stopped being ?? see that the, lights were out so we didn't go in, but we'd, see through 'em and they're watching TV, and we called 'em ?? people, {Chuckles} ?? people.

CP: What do you remember about rationing, gas rationing?

CG: Oh, ??

CP: All the rationing ??

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: ?? bad. We had two cars, and uh, uh, we usually had, had enough, ‘course being in business, we could get it. But I remember we did that boat, ?? had a wonderful boat trip, on account of that, and, and uh, uh, ?? goin’ to the Smokies once by train, ??. And then cars, we weren’t buying any cars, and we were ??. I remember once we uh, ?? started down to, Key West, and ?? car was so old then ??

CP: {Makes noise.} When I, the way I understand it, by that time, people had money, but they couldn’t spend it, because of the rationing. Is that the way it was?

CG: Uh, well, they had more money than they did in the Depression, yes. Uh, but inflation hadn’t set in. But our business had, certainly, grown, because the government ??, education, some science act, or something, and that, ??. And then in this little town, {Coughs} uh, I heard my mother talk about as how, people didn’t become prosperous, ?? businesses. ?? Oh, well, finally a strip mine came, ??. Don’t know the exact year, but uh, that’s what, brought this community, Hartford, too.

CP: Yeah, that’s what ??

CG: ?? Forties, is that right?

CP: I, I don’t know.

CG: Somebody, anybody else could tell you that. ?? Company, I think, was the first to come in. It musta been, right around 1940, ??. But when I came back, I noticed, quite a lot of coal people came in, and, and ??.

CP: What do you recall about uh, this being a dry county? Somebody said at one time it was wet, but ?? ? Do you recall that?

CG: Uh, somebody said that, yes. They were sellin’ beer in down in town, two or three places. I do recall, riding the train, and, at night, and uh, only way to get to Louisville, and when they, got to a certain county, the conductor’d come through, and announce that this is a dry county that was just, ?? can’t buy beer in the dining car or something, ??, uh, but for a long, it’s a dry county but you can go to Louisville, and, I, I, I, it’s just very brief time, they had a election a few years ago that really ??. ‘Course it was defeated. ?? Bootleggers have always had a good time here.

CP: Did you know the uh, stills where the bootleggers ??, things that were, rumored to be?

CG: Yeah, ??, {Chuckles} yeah. And uh, it was just rumor, ??.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CP: Well, what, what, what, one of the questions there, want me to ask, what, what, what, what did people consider the ??, of your, of your ?? ?

CG: Well, what I'm just ?? small, ?? week that uh, I probably could go to play parties, but ??, as long as they'd sing, that was ??.

CP: ?? , explain a little bit more about play parties.

CG: Well, "Skip To My Lou" and the uh, Virginia Reel, and all those things, we could ??, but, uh, if the ?? us, ??

CP: Anything that was considered the evil?

CG: Evil. Mm hm.

CP: Huh. About what, now, when would that be?

CG: Mmm, late Teens and, Twenties. My friends played piano, and ?? later when we went to college, why, we'd ?? dance at ???. I always had to play the piano, and I didn't get to dance. {Chuckles} But dancing, at each other's homes, but dance hall, that was ??.

CP: What type of dances, square dances, or?

CG: Uh, no, round?? dancing, or ?? dancing, ???. Most of the, the, the, uh, people did more entertaining at home in those days, and parties, and picnics, and, in this town, there was about forty of us. Girls and boys. And the boys would furnish the transportation and we'd furnish the food, and we'd have picnics ?? over and over and over, and all during the summer, had a lot of ???. In those times, people were thrilled to ??, cars, and ???. I know it was illegal but uh, we uh, we would get around the superintendent, get, get permission, and go ?? from school. But the last time we went, this was ?? this is ?? far back and, {Clears throat} ?? {Chuckles} I assume kids are doing things today, I don't know. I lived through it, {Both chuckle} but we didn't ?? , we did not, very few of our, class drank, then, ??.

CP: Were you very closely chaperoned by the parents, or did they ?? ?

CG: Uh, yeah, we usually had a chaperone. ?? {Chuckles}

CP: Uh, can you, can you tell me a little bit about how the boys dressed, and the girls dressed, when you were a teenager?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: Oh, when my first, I had a boyfriend and he wore ?? pants, and I don't exactly remember when they went into long pants, but that was quite a ??, long pants, but I don't remember. The first girl that, bobbed her hair was ??.

CP: ?? stories about ??

CG: Mm hm.

CP: ??

CG: ?? Something, must have been ?? that told me ??

CP: What influenced that? What would cause 'em to ?? ?

CG: I don't know, it's just uh, uh, let's see, went through the Flapper, ?? wore dresses and uh,

CP: Where'd that ?? go?

CG: Well, uh, my grandmother always had some ??. Grandpa'd get his ??, nice little ??. Talk with him.

CP: Uh huh.

CG: I think that it was hard to talk about lipstick and ??.

CP: Because it was bad?

CG: Oh, no, ?? didn't pay any attention to it, 'course

CP: {Chuckles} Did many people smoke?

CG: Well, the first time I smoked, I, they told me, ?? matches or so, and uh, I ??, this was ?? song ever was, and got this, Life Everlasting, cigarettes out of that, and we, we went to ??, and in the mean time, was ?? brother-in-law. {Both chuckle}

CP: How old were you?

CG: Uh, about seventh grade. {Both chuckle}

CP: Did that teach you not to smoke?

CG: No. {Both chuckle} Uh, I recall, it was a couple days and nights and uh, ?? smoked, ?? and gave all the rest of us a cigarette, ??, and uh, he went ?? and uh, we were so sure

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

my mother was goin' to find it out, I don't know how we thought she was, but, ?? made a lot of pickles. {Chuckles}

CP: Pickle. {Chuckles}

CG: And one of these boys, it was decided was going to tell my mother, and for years, two or three years, he would scare me. ?? finally, I ?? "Okay, tell her."

CP: {Chuckles}

CG: So I don't know whether he did or not.

CP: You sound like you were a little bit ahead of your time.

CG: Nooo.

CP: Were you?

CG: Nooo.

CP: ??

CG: No, no, no, no, no, I was, I was, a ?? {Chuckles}

CP: ?? a few that, never got out of line?

CG: No, I was, we got out of line.

CP: You just, you were modern than, than the time you're talking about.

CG: Well, I, yes, my father started that. Uh, when I was in high school, he uh, {Clears throat} 'course he'd lost his little boy, and I was all he had, and uh,

CP: How did that happen?

CG: ?? hepatitis ?? killed him. ?? There was the Owensboro Business College come over here in the summer, and uh, offered some courses, so uh, ?? had a new typewriter, and saw to it that I took typing. I started shorthand but then I quit that. ?? always been so grateful,

CP: Uh huh.

CG: For taking, my mother ?? I guess I did, ?? I was ambitious. I wanted a career. ??

CP: ?? careers and ??

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CG: Well uh, I wasn't married 'til I was at least thirty. Uh, yes, I guess most of us stayed around here, finally got married, but uh, that affected marriage greatly when the Depression hit.

CP: Why, how?

CG: Well, it was ?? to be married, and uh, uh, uh, ?? like a job ??, and if she's teaching school, that was ??.

CP: ?? teaching?

CG: Absolutely.

CP: Why?

CG: ?? believe in married women working, ?? and that's what it was. And then they could say, oh, politics, and, war, ??

CP: ?? man had a job, ??

CG: Very rare ?? in this group, couple that I was telling you about, they both ??, but uh, it was rare.

KE: ?? after you married?

CG: At the Second World War? I don't think it, stepped up, right then, but it uh, it sure began, didn't it? I suppose it began to increase. What are you going to do with all {Chuckles} this?

CP: ?? listen to this.

CG: I mean, what's the, what's the purpose?

CP: Probably goin' to be in the paper.

CG: {Chuckles}

CP: Well, wasn't you explained that in a letter?

CG: No.

CP: In September, ?? we're going to start publishing just a series of ?? local ??

CG: Mm.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Corinne Taylor Gregory (CT 57)

CP: ?? circulation ?? uh, based on people's accounts of what ??

CG: Mm.

CP: ?? we're getting to do a one-on-on interview with you, right now, and like, yesterday, we had ten people ??

END TAPE1, SIDE2